

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1, 35-36, 41, 43-45, 47-48, and 50-51 will be pending, claims 42 and 49 having been canceled. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitation previously set out in dependent claim 42, and claim 45 has been amended to incorporate the limitation previously set out in dependent claim 49. No new matter has been added.

Rejections Withdrawn

Applicants note with appreciation the withdrawal of the prior rejections described in the Office action at page 3 (paragraphs 3(I)-3(VI)).

Allowable Subject Matter

The sole remaining ground for rejection is based on 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) (Office action at pages 4-7). While Applicants continue to respectfully disagree with this rejection, the claims have been amended to cover subject matter the Examiner has found to be non-obvious and therefore patentable. The Examiner states (Office action at page 7):

Claims 42 and 49 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have accomplished the presentation of the allowable subject matter in independent form by incorporating the limitation of claim 42 into claim 1 (from which it used to depend) and by incorporating the limitation of claim 49 into claim 45 (from which it used to depend). Accordingly, the present claims are now in condition for allowance.

Applicant : Li *et al.*
Serial No. : 10/749,699
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Page : 5 of 5

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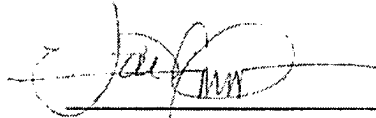
CONCLUDING FORMALITIES

For the sake of clarity on the record, Applicants wish to note the present amendment is made without prejudice to their right to pursue broader or different subject matter in a later-filed application.

Filed herewith is a Petition for Extension of Time. Please apply the fee and any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050 referencing Attorney Docket No. 01948-0057002.

Respectfully submitted,

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